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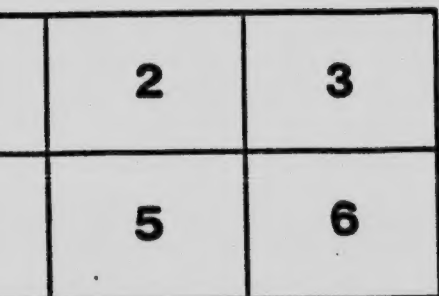
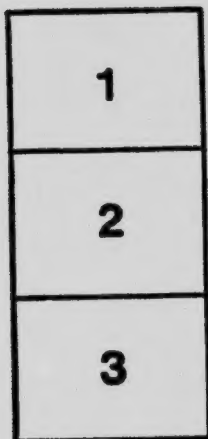
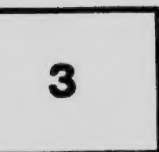
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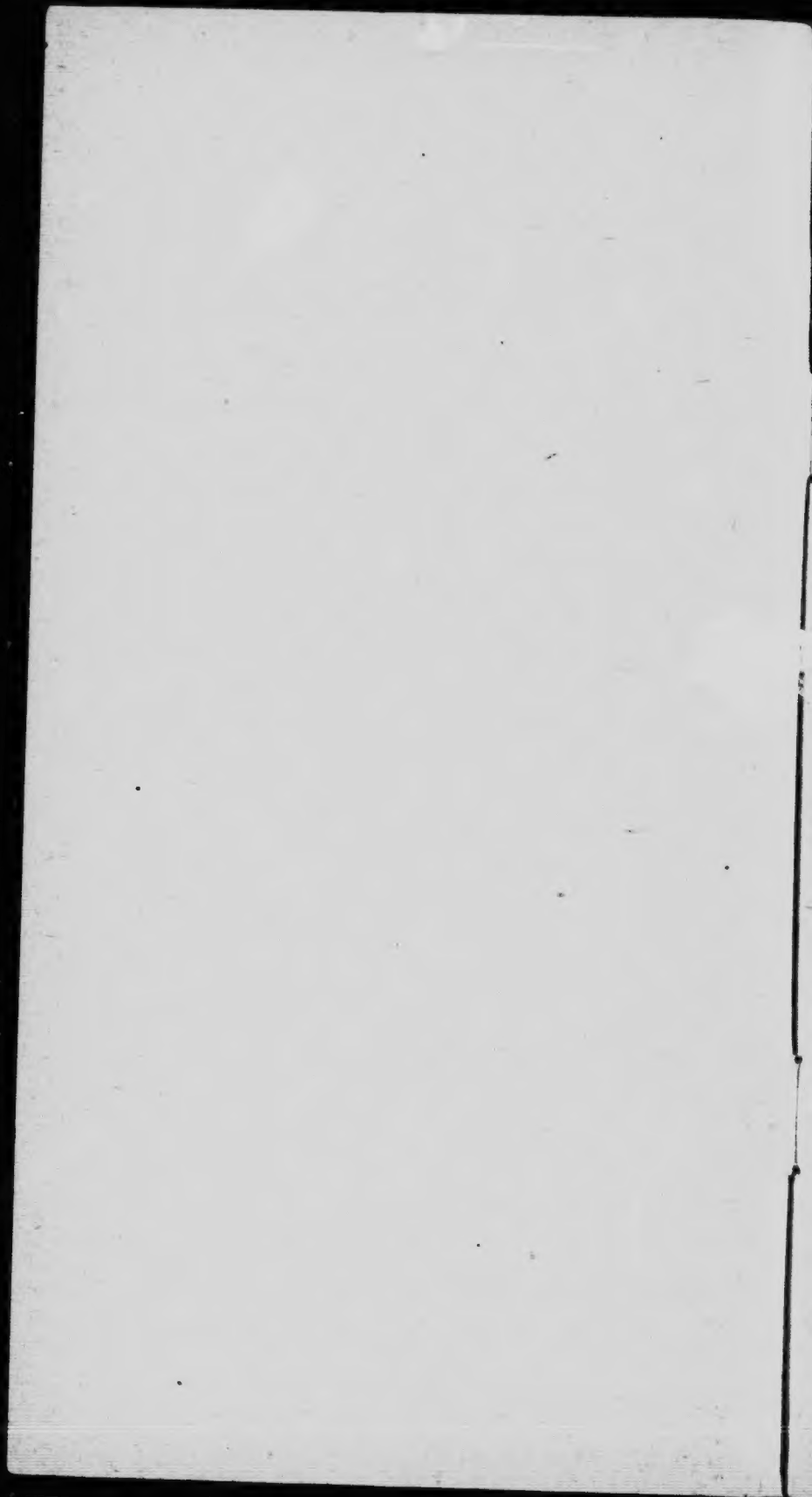
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PREPARATION
FOR A
MISSION
OF
EVANGELISM

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DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM
435 Confederation Life Building
TORONTO



PREPARATION

FOR A

MISSION OF EVANGELISM

IN making suggestions it is recognized that no such work can prosper without the blessing of God ; "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." It is also assumed that God never withholds the blessing, if the necessary conditions, humanly possible, are fulfilled. Results are not always immediately visible, but they are sure, if wise and prayerful effort has been put forth.

1. **THE PERIOD OF PREPARATION.** A whole year has been none too long for city Missions. It will rarely be found possible to make adequate preparation for even a rural district in less than from two to six months.

2. **THE OPPORTUNE SEASON.** Much depends on fixing the dates of such a Mission at a season the most opportune. This will mean consideration of weather, roads, occupation of the people and other conditions. It may be stated, however, that Missions have been conducted in every month of the

year and during the busiest holiday seasons. Where people engage in the work heartily and prayerfully the apparently inopportune time becomes most fruitful. It is also obviously impossible for the Board to grant all applications for Missions if limited to the autumn and early winter months. Where Home Mission fields are concerned it is important that the beginning of the Missionary's term rather than the end be selected, so that the work may be the better conserved.

3. **UNANIMITY AMONG WORKERS.** It is very important that there should be unanimity and great heartiness among the ministers and elders or other lay leaders, and a readiness to unitedly consecrate their time and talent without reserve to this special effort for the time being. Workers have occasionally written that the local enmity and strife were such as to make the best work impossible.

4. **SECURING OUTSIDE HELPERS.** Where the local Minister or Missionary desires the help of one of his brethren in the pastorate the Department of Evangelism will be glad to advise as to men of experience and adaptability. It has been conclusively demonstrated, however, that men of almost no experience, if of right spirit and in right

attitude to God, may prove Missioners of great power. It is not always necessary, therefore, that helpers be brought from a distance.

The Department has a small staff of Musical Directors and Soloists, but these are associated with its regular Evangelists, and so cannot, except on rare occasions, be secured separately.

Sometimes a visiting pastor may be able to take a leader or soloist from his own choir.

5. INTERDENOMINATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

As a rule it is very desirable to get the local congregations of other denominations to unite in the Mission.

6. HOW TO PREPARE. The Pastor himself has much work to do by way of preparation. Many have blessed others and received blessing by (a) preaching on suitable themes, such as Sin, Redemption, the Love of God, Repentance, Faith, Regeneration, Sanctification, Consistent Christian Living, Winning Others to Christ, Prayer, the Mission of the Church, the Conditions of Spiritual Quickening, etc.; (b) meeting with elders, managers, Sabbath School teachers and other workers, either in separate or united conference, for prayer and consultation, with the Mission in view;

(c) making the Mission a subject of earnest conversation and prayer in all pastoral work for months in advance, and (d) in earnestly seeking to get people to pray specially and regularly for the Divine blessing and guidance in the Mission, and to definitely refuse, as far as possible, to make engagements of any kind for the period set apart for the Mission. The giving of the King's business a monopoly for this brief period is of the very first consequence.

In most places the following committees should be appointed well in advance of the Mission :—

(1). An Executive Committee—consisting of the chairman of each other committee and one or more other members from each co-operating church.

The chairman of the Executive should be a member ex-officio of all other committees.

This Executive will have control of all local arrangements for the Mission, providing for the place of all meetings, and will see that all the committees do their work in the best way possible, and that nothing is left undone that consecrated human foresight can plan and do in the interests of the Mission.

Avoid moving the meetings from one building to another unless found compulsory.

Where the Mission is Interdenominational it may be deemed advisable to use one church for children's meetings another for prayer groups, etc., but all meetings of one type should be associated with one building and thus avoid confusion.

Great care should be taken to have the place of meeting comfortably seated, heated and ventilated, and competent men should be appointed to maintain this care throughout the entire Mission. Cold feet or inadequate ventilation render an experience of grace extremely difficult.

(2). A Finance Committee—consisting of a chairman and one or more representatives from each co-operating church. This is the simplest constitution for all such committees. It should have the right to veto any plan involving expense, as it must be ready to pay all accounts involved apart from what the Department assumes. These expenses are only assumed when the Mission is conducted by the Board's workers. The Finance Committee must read carefully the pamphlet on "Conditions under which Missions of Evangelism are Conducted."

It will provide for subscriptions, if necessary, to meet local expenses, and these must

be secured before the Mission begins. The collections at all public meetings are received and cared for by the Finance Committee. A thank-offering in envelopes supplied, is made on the closing nights of the Mission. The surplus ^{Sabbath} ~~over~~ the average loose collection on the ~~Sabbaths~~ should also be added to the above. These offerings are for the Board's work.

No greater mistake can be made than not to encourage regenerated or revived people to give to their Master's work. They usually want to do so. This the Board considers unquestionable, and of the greatest importance.

(3). An Advertising Committee. In some places it may be wise to ask the Finance Committee or the Executive to do the work of this Committee. It will make the meetings known throughout the district to be reached—thoroughly known, and a vital interest aroused. Not a few records show that no earnest effort was made to acquaint the public of the services to be carried on until after the Missioners arrived.

Advertising may be done (a) by reporting the plans decided upon at each meeting, in the local press, and by the insertion of carefully worded advertisements; (b) by asking the active help of the Committees on Prayer,

Canvassing, etc.; (c) by posters in public places, shop windows, etc., placed there not more than two weeks in advance, and (d) by letters from pastors or official bodies of the various churches; (e) by pulpit, Sabbath School, and other announcements, regularly repeated as long in advance as possible.

(4). A Committee on Prayer. All God's work must be done in the spirit of prayer and in humble, trustful dependance on His enabling grace. The Committee on Prayer can do much to induce the Christian people to pray for the ministers, office-bearers, and members of the churches, for the Missioners and singers, and for the unconverted in the community. If they learn the possibilities and blessing of Intercessory prayer in this special effort, they are likely to continue to exercise the privilege and power after the campaign is over.

The Committee may organize Prayer Circles in different neighborhoods, or among particular classes of people, whose members will agree to pray in private, for blessing on the Mission, or who will meet weekly for united prayer. The Committee should also arrange for home or cottage meetings. In several congregations from ten to twenty of these have been held daily for at least a week. They were for prayer only, and

lasted from ten to twenty minutes. There was greatly increased interest because of the simultaneity in these little prayer meetings. The fact that each person knows that all others are similarly engaged at the same time contributes to create that atmosphere of prayer in which it is easy to approach people on the King's Business, and to win them to the service of Christ.

These meetings give the opportunity for personal workers to call upon all residents in the neighborhood of the homes where the meetings are to be held, and to effectively advertise the Mission, as well as to direct personal work in winning people to Christ.

There should be union prayer meetings also, for all the people of the co-operating churches for a few weeks before the Mission opens, and for perhaps one or two nights immediately preceding the opening of the Mission.

(5). A Committee on Music. If co-operation is possible, this Committee will organize the choirs of all the churches into a Union Choir for the special meetings, and see that it practices in advance the special hymns to be used in the Mission. It will arrange for an organist for all preparatory practices, as well as for the Mission meetings themselves, unless the evangelistic party has its own.

accompanist. It arranges for a Director of the Choir up till the actual opening of the Mission.

(6). A Personal Work and Canvassing Committee. The Chairman of this Committee should be carefully chosen, an earnest, tactful Christian worker, capable of inspiring and directing others in similar endeavor. The members of this Committee should be drawn from all organizations in the churches, and be the best men and women available.

Their work before the Mission opens will be canvassing in connection with neighborhood cottage prayer meetings, or in taking a church census and inviting to all meetings before or during the Mission. When the Mission opens they will co-operate with the Missioner in every way possible.

The following booklets are furnished
in limited quantities by the Board,
free of cost:—

Kootenay Campaign, Narrative Report of.

Minnedosa " " " "

Preparation for a Mission of Evangelism.

Follow-Up Work of a Mission of Evangelism.

Counsels to a Young Missioner.

Suggestions to Pastors.

Suggestions to Missioners and Directors of Song (typed).

Special Services.

The printed matter below listed states
that services are being held in the
Presbyterian Church, or refers the
reader to newspaper announcements
and small bills. Price includes pos-
tage.

King's Business Window Cards, 14 x 11—50c. per doz.

Children's Meetings, Window Cards, 17 x 5½—40c.
per doz.

"To-Night" Dodgers, 4 x 5—40c. per hundred.

K. B. Invitation Cards, 2½ x 4½—55c. per hundred.

Children's Meetings Invitation Cards—3 x 4½—45c.
per hundred.

Decision Cards (four varieties), particulars on application.

Alexander Hymns—(prices on application).

God's Minute—a book of daily prayers—50c.

Religious Revival and Social Betterment—Robinson, 75c.

Trail Tales of Western Canada—Robinson, \$1.25,
postage 8c.

DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

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Toronto, Ontario

REV. F. A. ROBINSON, Secretary

